

260th Anniversary

TRINITY
CHURCH
OXFORD



1698-1958



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Anniversary Messages

Greetings to all of the faithful members of Trinity, Oxford, on this glorious 260th Anniversary. We raise our voices in thanksgiving to God for all who have faithfully served Him here in past generations and pray that He will guide us and direct us through His Holy Spirit in the days which lie ahead.

We must ever be aware that the tasks to which He will call us will not be easy ones. If we invoke the Holy Spirit to lead us we must expect difficult and hard tasks to perform. We have only to review the life of Jesus Christ, who was led by the Holy Spirit, to realize this. If we invoke the Holy Spirit we must be ready for the hard tasks, loneliness, desertion by friends, and apparent desertion even by God; that was the way Christ went to the Father. He may drive us on to attempt great things; we may fail, but if we can ever forget ourselves and put Him first, and not our own ease and pleasures, He will help us do the tasks to which He sets our hands.

REV. ALBERT M. HOLLOWAY,
Rector

On the occasion of the 260th Anniversary of Trinity Church, Oxford, I, as a former rector, desire to extend to the Rector and congregation every good wish and God's richest blessing upon every effort put forth by the Parish's faithful workers.

Many years ago a member of the vestry, writing for a historical magazine, stated that several of the parishes in this section of Philadelphia had been founded by Trinity, Oxford, and it appeared to him that the mother Church in time would have to be aided by her children. It appears, however, that his prediction did not take place. Judging by the development of this section of the city and the growth made by the Parish its future is very promising. It is quite evident the slogan adapted by the members of Trinity Church, Oxford is — "The People Had a Mind to Work" (Ne. 4:6).

REV. W. JANSEN,
Rector Emeritus

GUESTS

- The Rt. Rev. and Mrs. Oliver J. Hart,
Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania
The Rt. Rev. and Mrs. William P. Roberts,
Retired Bishop of Shanghai, China
The Rev. Waldemar Jansen, *Rector Emeritus*
The Rev. and Mrs. Albert M. Holloway, *Rector*
The Rev. and Mrs. James A. Trimble
Vicar, Church of the Redemption, Southampton, Pa.
The Rev. and Mrs. Donald T. Ottinger
Pastor, Lawndale Methodist Church
The Rev. and Mrs. Robert W. McCarter
Pastor, Lawndale Presbyterian Church
The Rev. and Mrs. Philip W. Weiss
Pastor, Bethany Church of Christ
The Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Wolf,
Pastor, Crescentville Evangelical United Brethren Church

SPEAKER

The Rev. John Robbins Hart, Ph.D.

Rector, Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge

Dr. Hart is a native of Philadelphia, received his education here, and has spent his entire ministry in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. He received his B.A., M.A., Ph.D. degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, and his theological degree from the Philadelphia Divinity School. After graduation he became the Student Chaplain and one of the founders of the Inter-Church Federation of the Campus of the University of Pennsylvania. He spent four years as a part-time adviser to the Cadets at West Point. Since 1937 he has been the Rector of the Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge. He is the President of the Valley Forge Historical Society and founded the Valley Forge Music Center. He is the author of "Valley Forge During World War II" and "Fourteen Reasons Why I Believe In God." He is a consulting psychologist and lecturer, and professor of psychology at the Junto, Philadelphia's Adult Education School. He is Vice-Chairman of the Speaker's Research Committee for the United Nations, and a member of the Mental Health Council of Philadelphia.

CREAM MINTS

Resumé of Church History

Services were started by 1698 in a log meeting house built by the Quakers.

The first minister to serve Trinity, Oxford, was Rev. Thomas Clayton, Founder of the Church in Philadelphia.

We still have the original deed dated Dec. 30, 1700 when 3 acres of land were conveyed in trust to Joshua Carpenter and John Moore. Joshua Carpenter later built Carpenter Hall.

A prized possession is a hand hammered silver chalice presented by Queen Anne of England in 1713. It is most likely the last one sent to the Colonies, as she died the same year.

As an example of missionary spirit, Rev. John Clubb traveled twenty miles to Radnor and later Rev. Robert Weyman went forty miles further to Conestoga (present-day Lancaster). This was during the early 1700's. At this time St. Thomas, Whitemarsh, was seeking a minister.

In 1724 Rev. R. Weyman established himself in a house on 63 acres purchased as a glebe of the church.

In 1742 Rev. Aeneas Ross came as rector. His daughter-in-law Betsy, made the first "Stars and Stripes." She undoubtedly attended Trinity, Oxford.

In 1758 Rev. Hugh Neill succeeded Mr. Ross. About this time the floors, pews, and first pulpit were installed.

In 1761 a new glebe was purchased and a lottery held to meet the expense. It proved unprofitable and caused a great deal of ill will.

Rev. William Smith, President of the present University of Penna., and a leader in the formation of the

American Episcopal Church, came to our parish. At the 1780 Convention he gave the name "Protestant Episcopal Church" to the clergy and laity.

In 1785 we received another Rev. William Smith as rector. He also took charge of All Saints, Torresdale, and probably St. Thomas, Whitemarsh.

In 1786 Rev. Joseph Pilmore of St. George's Methodist Church became our rector.

In 1786 Trinity, St. Thomas and All Saints, Torresdale, were incorporated.

Between 1786 and 1807 the building was renovated and enlarged.

In 1838 the last of all glebe lands were sold.

Rev. Geo. Sheets arrived in 1816 for a trial rectorship, but stayed 38 years. Under his guidance Emanuel, Holmesburg and St. Marks, Frankford were built.

In 1833 and 1839 two wings and a bell tower were erected.

Rev. Edward T. Buchanan, brother of President Buchanan, served for 28 years and wrote the first history of the Church.

In an excellent financial position the Church extended its property to Rising Sun Ave. by buying two more acres.

In 1874 they gave \$52,000.00 to Episcopal Hospital for a new wing.

In 1875 the new bell tower was erected and the bell installed.

The Buchanan building was erected in 1883 and used until the present parish house was built in 1928.

In 1884 the first organ was installed.

During the rectorship of Rev. Henry MacBeth, starting in 1885, many memorial gifts, such as the altar, reredos, stained glass, font, pulpit, lectern, and

many more improved the interior of the Church.

In 1915 Rev. Waldemar Jansen succeeded Rev. H. F. Fuller. During Mr. Jansen's rectorship of 31 years the parish house was erected to handle parish growth.

Since 1947 our present rector, Rev. A. M. Holloway, has continued to add to church history. In 1955 the old church building was completely renovated.

Mr. Holloway and several laymen have been active in founding a mission in Southampton, which now has its own rector.

May Trinity Church, Oxford, continue long to serve and truly say

"Lord, Thou hast been our refuge from one generation to another."

—H. SPARKS